Please add the following new claims:

--25. The voice recognition system according to claim 2, wherein the converter executes the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction by carrying out the elongation or contraction in cepstrum space.

26. The voice recognition system according to claim 2, wherein the elongation/contraction estimating unit executes the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction by using estimation derived from the best likelihood estimation of HMM (hidden Marcov model) in cepstrum space.

27. The voice recognition system according to claim 3, wherein the elongation/contraction estimating unit executes the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction by using estimation derived from the best likelihood estimation of HMM (hidden Marcov model) in cepstrum space.

28. The reference pattern learning system according to claim 6, wherein the elongation/contraction estimating unit executes the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction by using estimation derived from the best likelihood estimation of HMM (hidden Marcov model) in cepstrum space.

29. The voice recognition method according to claim 18, wherein the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction is executed by carrying out the elongation or contraction in cepstrum space.

30. The voice recognition method according to claim 18, wherein the elongation/contraction estimating process executes the elongation or contraction of spectrum on frequency axis with warping function defining the form of elongation or contraction by using estimation derived from the best likelihood estimation of HMM (hidden Marcov model) in cepstrum space.